

DANIEL F. WATERS GERMANTOWN DYE WORKS,  
BUILDING L  
37-55 East Wister Street  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia County  
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-213-L

HAER  
PA  
91-PHILA,  
716L-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
Philadelphia Support Office  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HAER  
PA  
51-PHILA  
716L-

## HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

DANIEL F. WATERS GERMANTOWN DYE WORKS, BUILDING L

HAER No. PA-213-L

Location:

37-55 E. Wister Street  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia County  
Pennsylvania

Present Owner:

Greater Germantown Housing Development Corporation  
48 East Penn Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Present Occupant:

Vacant.

Significance:

This c.1900 cylinder room was part of Daniel F. Waters' early expansion.

## PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### A. Physical History

#### Date(s) of Erection:

Building L was built c.1900.

#### Architect:

Unknown.

#### Original/Subsequent Owners:

See Chain of Title.

#### Builder, Contractor, Suppliers:

Unknown.

#### Original Plans/Construction:

Building L, originally the "Cylinder Room" at Germantown, maintains its original 2-story, 3-bay configuration.

#### Alterations/Additions:

There have not been any alterations or additions to Building L.

### B. Historical Context

Building L was built as part of Daniel F. Waters' expansion of the Germantown Dye Works. With the erection of Building L, the dye works had extended across the block and now had facilities at Lena and Collom Streets. The two-story structure was noted on a c.1910 map as containing a cylinder room.

## **PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION**

### **A. General Statement**

#### **Architectural Character:**

Building L is two-story brick early twentieth century vernacular industrial structure.

#### **Condition of Fabric:**

Generally poor condition; masonry is cracking in places on the north facade, as well as deteriorated sash and exposed openings.

### **B. Description of Exterior**

#### **Overall Dimensions:**

40' x 30', two-story, 3-bay facade on both Collom Street and Lena Street.

#### **Foundations:**

Brick.

#### **Walls:**

Brick.

#### **Structural System/Framing:**

Load bearing brick masonry walls with post and beam framing.

#### **Porches/Stoops/Balconies/Bulkheads:**

Not applicable.

#### **Chimneys:**

Not applicable.

#### **Openings:**

##### **Doorways/Doors:**

Brick segmental arch doorway, on-center at north facade elevation on Collom Street, has a double-leaf wooden door with a five-part transom. Above this door is a second-floor hoist-door: double-leaf, two-panel, four-light, with the hoist gate, and the protruding hoist beam above.

Windows/Shutters:

Brick segmental arch with simple molded wood surround on front facade. Side facades have rectangular openings with simple molded wood surround. Twelve-over-twelve, double-hung wood sash throughout.

Roof:

Stepped parapet roof on front (north) facade. Metal cornice on side facades. Built-up asphalt roofing.

C. Description of Interior

Floor Plans:

Two floors of open, unpartitioned space, with stairway against south wall. Access through opening, to Building J, in south wall.

Stairways:

There is a deteriorated wooden stairway leading to the second floor, against the southern wall of Building L.

Flooring

First floor: concrete.  
Second floor: wood planks.

Wall/Ceiling Finishes:

Exposed ceilings with rough plaster on walls; exposed trusswork.

Openings:

Doorways/Doors:

No historic interior doors remain.

Windows:

Simple molded wood surround.

Decorative Features and Trim:

Not applicable.

Hardware:

Mid-twentieth century replacement locks and hinges.

Mechanical Equipment:

Heating, air conditioning, ventilation:

Steam radiators in disrepair.

Lighting:

Modern electrical fixtures.

Plumbing:

Not available.

D. Site

General Setting/Orientation:

Building L constitutes the northeast corner of the dye works site; bordered by Lena Street, Collom Street, the access alley, and Building J.

Historic Landscape Design:

None.

Outbuildings:

None.